

The building which we have erected here to house the activities of the University of Maryland School of Law marks another significant advancement in the progress our State has been making in the improvement of its educational system.

I told the General Assembly, when it convened in Annapolis last January, that when its history, and the history of this administration, is written, "I should not be surprised if the advancement we have made in . . . education is not set down as our greatest single achievement." I can think of no accomplishment I would cherish more. I therefore am greatly pleased to see still another example of educational progress such as we have here in this splendid new law building.

May I say that the State of Maryland is pleased and highly honored to have as guest and principal speaker at these dedicatory exercises the Chief Justice of the United States. Mr. Chief Justice, we are delighted that you are able to be with us for the ceremony.

On an occasion such as this, I think it is appropriate that we pause to reflect upon this institution — this school of law of the University of Maryland — and influence it has had on the people it has served. Certainly it would be difficult to point to an institution of comparable size that has influenced government and society more than has this law school since classes began here nearly a century and a half ago. Wherever one goes in this State, in government, legal, or business circles, he encounters those who have had their training at the University of Maryland School of Law. Of the three state-wide elected officials of Maryland — the Governor, the Comptroller of the Treasury, and the Attorney General — only one — myself — is not a graduate of this law school. And, of course, I am not a lawyer. Both of our United States Senators are graduates of the school. The President of the State Senate and the Chairman of the Judicial Proceedings Committee of that body have diplomas from the school, as do nine of the 12 lawyer-Senators. The Speaker of the House of Delegates is a graduate, as is the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, and 20 of the 43 lawyer members of the House of Delegates. The Mayor of the City of Baltimore and the President of the City Council both received their legal training at this school. Presiding over our courts, from the highest on down, are a preponderance of University of Maryland School of Law graduates. In all three branches of our state government, then — the executive, legislative, and judicial branches — men who studied law at this school are in dominant positions. There is also a heavy sprinkling of alumni of the school